

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

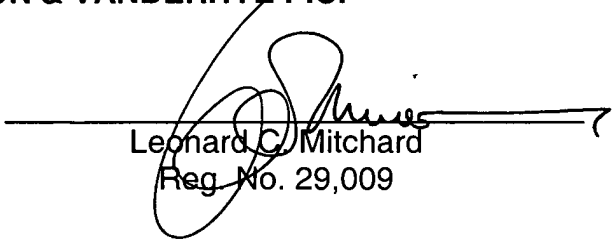
Claim 34 has been amended to recite 1 to 3 carboxy groups, in conformity to the rest of the claim. The specification has also been amended to recite 1 to 3 carboxy groups. No new matter is entered.

Applicants await an early action on the merits. If the Examiner finds this case is not now in condition for allowance and believes that an interview prior to first action would be helpful in focussing and/or resolving issues, applicants request the Examiner to contact their representative at the telephone number listed below to arrange a telephonic or personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


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